

Doell eyeing cross-country title this weekend

By **HERB GARBUTT**
Staff Writer

Michelle Doell has taken on the best cross-country runners in Ontario, now she's setting her sights on the best in Canada.

Doell finished 12th in a field of 80 competitors at the Ontario Cross-Country Championships at the University of Waterloo. The result was

even more impressive considering the 14-year-old Bishop Reding student was running in the junior division (for 18 to 19-year-olds). Doell ran in the higher age group in order to qualify for the Canadian Cross-Country Championships, being held this weekend in Vancouver.

"It was probably my best race ever," Doell said.

Despite running in a higher age group, Doell said she wasn't intimidat-

ed because many of her teammates were also in the race. Many of them have also qualified for the national event and together they are hoping to win the team event.

After a ninth-place finish in the midget division at last year's provincials, Doell continued to take great strides forward. That's when her coach at Etobicoke Gladstone suggested she move up two divisions in order to qualify for nationals.

"She's mentally tough, she works hard and she has talent. That's a good combination," said Omar Guzman.

Doell said she hasn't set any individual goals in terms of placings because she's not sure what to expect in terms of the competition.

"I don't know because I've never been there before," she said. "It's going to be the best athletes in Canada, though. I'll just keep my head up and keep going."

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Rep hockey roundup

Bantam Hurricanes fall a goal short

Ryan Busby and Frank Fazio each had three points but Guelph held off the Halton Major Bantam Hurricanes for a 5-4 win.

Fazio scored twice and Busby and Adam Kemp had the other Hurricane goals. Danny Nicklasson contributed a pair of assists while David Brooks and Kyle Hotham each had one.

Oakville needed a goal with 40 seconds to play to take a 2-1 decision from Halton, who had two goals called back. Hotham and Mike Connell set up Fazio for the Hurricane goal.

The Hurricanes lost 2-1 to Grey-Bruce. Connell scored from Hotham and Fazio.

Minor Pee wee Raiders

Josh Hunt blanked Burlington and the Georgetown Minor Pee wee Raiders followed up with a 4-3 win over Brampton.

Matt Velten and James

Mountford scored in the 2-0 win over Burlington. Cody Bass, Thomas Raynard and Matt Lyons drew assists on the goals.

Bass had a pair of goals and Andrew Robitaille and Velten each had a goal and two assists against Brampton. Robitaille scored the only Raider goal in the final game of the week, a 4-1 loss to Orangeville.

Ryan Fines had a hat-trick and Mountford netted a pair in a 7-1 win over Guelph. Brad Torres and Nick McLaughlin also scored. Robitaille had three assists and Bass had a pair. Singles went to Kevin Field, Raynard and Ryan Torres.

Atom II Raiders

Alex Ingangaro racked up eight points as the Georgetown BDO Capital Atom II Raiders pounded Fergus 11-2.

Ingangaro scored six times and A.J. Syme netted a pair for

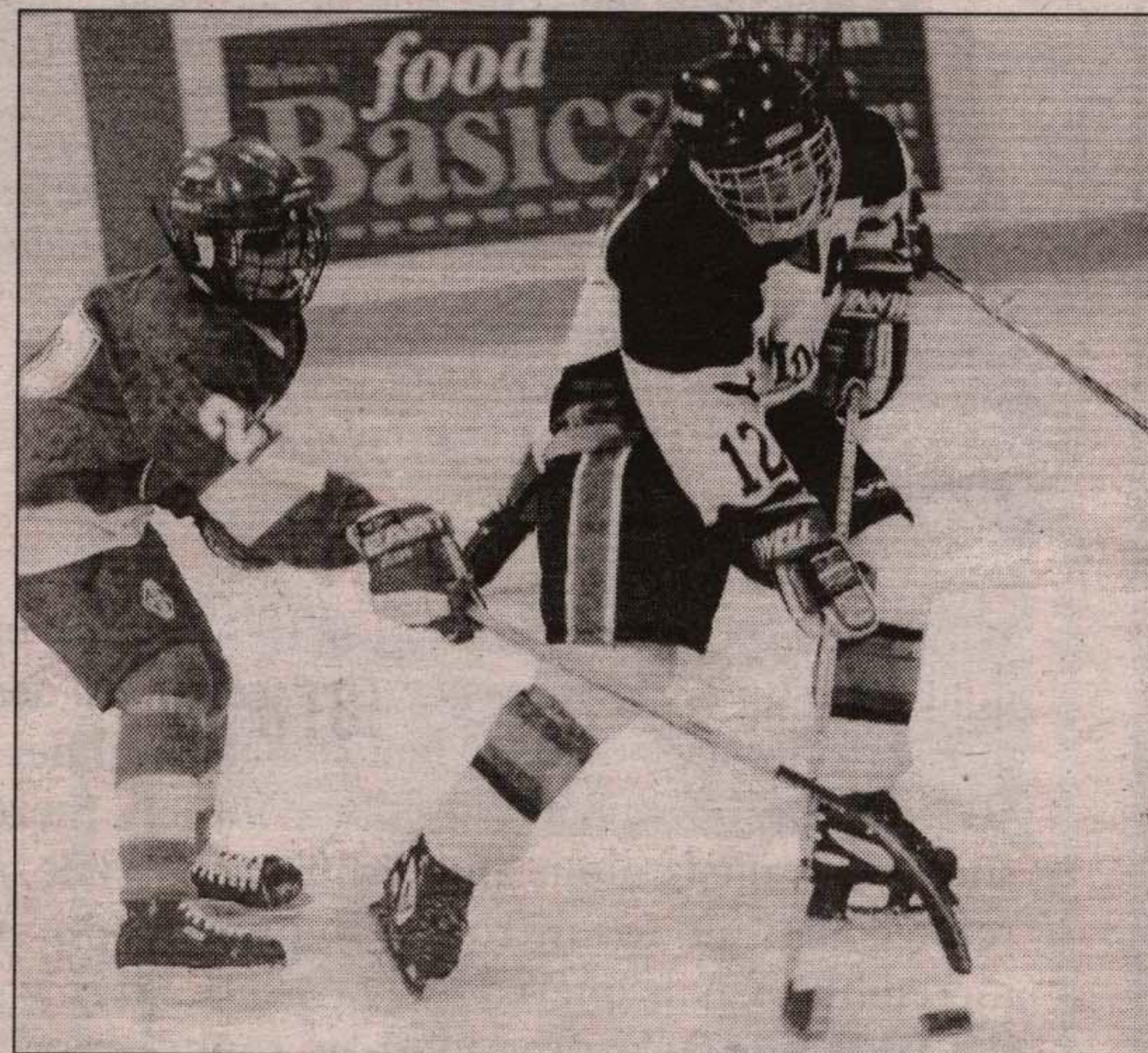
the Raiders. Jesse Swain had a goal and four assists and Dan Rankin scored once and set up two more. Mike Knowles also scored for the Raiders. Picking up assists for the Raiders were Joel Greaves, Eric McClure, Sean Logan, Matt Turner, Scott Buist, Justin Bolton and Mike Brown.

The Raiders also found themselves on the other end of a lop-sided score as they fell 10-3 to Brampton. Syme scored twice and Ingangaro had the other. Brett Maltby and Spencer Malcovich assisted on the goals.

Major Atom Raiders

Woolwich swept a home-and-home series against the Georgetown Eagle Landscaping Major Atom Raiders.

Woolwich needed a goal with two minutes to play to edge the Raiders 3-2. Jonathan Malatesta and David Walkington scored for Raiders. Chris Rahim, Derek



Guelph's Scott Fischer puts the hook on James Mountford of the Georgetown Minor Pee wee Raiders. Mountford scored twice in the Raiders' 7-1 victory last Sunday. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Cianfrini drew assists.

Woolwich won the opening game 4-2. Walkington had both

Raider goals and Ryan Williams had the lone assist.

See PEEWEE, pg. 11

Ex-Ice Dogs' coaches not bitter at feeling the wrath of Grapes

Peter Sturgeon may not agree with Don Cherry's decision, but he can understand it.

The Mississauga Ice Dogs' first coach and general manager was fired on Sunday, as was his assistant Adam Bennett.

"I was asked to be the general manager and coach under certain conditions and I fulfilled that to the best of my ability," Sturgeon said. "Our goal was patience and long-term success and we were prepared to go through those developmental challenges."

Cherry obviously wasn't. With the Ice

Dogs sitting at 1-21-1 and in last place in the Ontario Hockey League, the Ice Dogs' majority owner fired Sturgeon and Bennett following Sunday's 3-0 loss to Ottawa.

"I felt we had done everything that we were asked to," Bennett said. "As far as the time line goes, that's Don's decision, but I feel we did the best we could with what we had."

Sturgeon said he could understand why his former coach in Boston couldn't be as patient as the Ice Dogs' expansion cousins in Brampton, who aren't much better at 3-20-0.

"Because Don Cherry is a global hockey identity, there's a lot of media attention and there had to be tremendous pressure to have instant success."

Cherry said earlier this week that the decision to fire Sturgeon and Bennett became clear when Ottawa coach Brian Kilrea was more upset with his team than Sturgeon was with the Ice Dogs after Sunday's game.

"You can't brow beat them every day. They'd quit," Sturgeon said. "We were playing the best team in the country and it was scoreless through two periods. That's not satisfactory in terms of wins

and losses but the desire and determination was there."

Sturgeon plans to refocus his attention on Pro Bound, his hockey program for developing young hockey players. Bennett said he will concentrate on his financial services career. He said if he returns to coaching, it will be in minor hockey.

"I don't think I'd want to get into it at such a competitive level again," he said. "If I go back it will be to the grassroots where the kids are playing to have fun and playing because they love the game."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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